



Reference No. 6.27

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, MARCH 1975

### MAIN FEATURES

- In March 1975 there were 211 industrial disputes involving 81,700 employees and resulting in a loss of 169,100 working days.
- The working days lost in the March quarter were substantially lower than those recorded in the March quarters of 1973 and 1974. They were approximately at the same level as those for the March quarter 1972.
- Almost half of the working days lost in March were the result of three major disputes in New South Wales, involving builders' labourers (intra-union dispute), teachers (preference issue), and newspaper employees (roster dispute).

### EXPLANATORY NOTES

This bulletin contains statistics of industrial disputes for the month of March 1975 and some previous periods. More information about these disputes will appear later in the detailed quarterly bulletin *Industrial Disputes* (Reference No. 6.6).

2. The statistics of industrial disputes are compiled according to the Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC), described in the Bureau publication *Australian Standard Industrial Classification (Preliminary Edition)*, 1969, Vol. 1. Statistics on this basis for the years 1968 to 1972 are published in *Labour Report* No. 57, 1972 (Reference No. 6.7) and the March quarter 1973 bulletin (Reference No. 6.6).

3. The statistics of industrial disputes refer only to disputes involving stoppages of work of ten man-days or more. Workers involved include workers directly and

indirectly involved in disputes. Workers indirectly involved are employees thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred but not themselves parties to the dispute. Particulars of some stoppages (e.g. those involving a large number of establishments) may be estimated and the statistics therefore should be regarded as giving a broad measure of the extent of stoppages of work (as defined).

4. Stoppages of work occurring at different times and at different establishments but due to the same cause may be regarded as one industrial dispute. However, an industrial dispute occurring in more than one State is counted as a separate dispute in each State. A dispute involving workers in more than one industry in a State or Territory is counted only once in the number of disputes — in the industry that has the largest number of workers involved; but workers involved, working days lost and estimated loss in wages are allocated to their respective industries. Disputes not settled at the end of a year are included as new disputes in the figures for the following year. The monthly statistics refer to all disputes operative in the month, including those disputes that commenced in previous months. In Table 1 details of the number of disputes and workers involved are shown separately for disputes beginning in the month and for all disputes. Average days lost per worker involved on a monthly basis are not comparable with the yearly averages, because workers involved are included in each month in which they are involved in disputes, while they are counted once only for each dispute in the annual figures. Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components are due to rounding.

5. For statistics of industrial disputes for earlier periods see *Labour Report* No. 57, 1972 (Reference No. 6.7).

TABLE 1. - INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : AUSTRALIA

Period	Number of disputes		Workers involved ('000)		Working days lost		Estimated loss in wages (a) (\$'000)
	Beginning in month	Total (a)	Beginning in month	Total (a)	Number (a) ('000)	Average days per worker involved (b)	
1969	..	2,014	..	1,285.2	1,958.0	1.5	22,985.7
1970	..	2,738	..	1,367.4	2,393.7	1.8	30,883.3
1971	..	2,404	..	1,326.5	3,068.6	2.3	45,241.3
1972	..	2,298	..	1,113.8	2,010.3	1.8	32,074.4
1973	..	2,538	..	803.0	2,634.7	3.3	45,206.5
1974	..	2,809	..	2,004.8	6,292.5	3.1	128,301.8
1974 -							
March	274	323	144.0	492.1	2,011.3	4.1	36,646.2
April	210	239	248.2	607.8	936.1	1.5	18,170.9
May	306	356	172.6	317.5	559.6	1.8	11,672.3
June	241	277	92.8	98.0	235.1	2.4	4,944.2
July	308	336	216.0	227.6	526.2	2.3	11,792.7
August	232	299	227.5	314.1	816.3	2.6	18,124.7
September	237	268	176.5	189.5	255.1	1.3	6,371.9
October	226	245	145.9	179.5	238.6	1.3	5,792.7
November	196	216	72.7	75.4	161.8	2.1	3,734.2
December	126	139	60.0	63.4	80.5	1.3	2,449.5
1975 -							
January (c)	158	158	29.9	29.9	36.9	1.2	953.6
February (c)	237	252	65.1	67.7	116.7	1.7	2,999.0
March (c)	182	211	70.7	81.7	169.1	2.1	4,621.8

(a) Refers to all disputes operative and workers involved in the period - see paragraph 4, page 1. (b) Monthly figures are not comparable with yearly figures - see paragraph 4, page 1. (c) Subject to revision.

TABLE 2. - INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : INDUSTRIES (a), AUSTRALIA  
WORKING DAYS LOST ('000) (b)

Period	Manufacturing				Transport and storage: communication				
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment (c)	Other	Construction	Stevedoring services		Other industries	All industries
	Coal	Other				Other	Other		
1969	76.1	76.9	643.6	267.1	264.4	136.2	286.4	207.3	1,958.0
1970	178.4	76.5	625.9	440.9	618.3	148.3	156.7	148.8	2,393.7
1971	251.6	83.2	636.7	317.7	1,109.5	73.9	300.1	295.9	3,068.6
1972	60.8	62.0	620.2	393.7	407.8	39.2	205.2	221.3	2,010.3
1973	87.5	155.3	800.8	661.4	439.3	49.5	93.2	347.6	2,634.7
1974	163.0	146.5	2,850.8	756.7	1,188.7	111.1	516.2	559.4	6,292.5
1974 -									
March	52.5	6.0	1,749.7	66.5	98.1	9.3	5.1	24.1	2,011.3
April	28.1	5.4	356.4	23.5	422.0	39.5	4.3	56.9	936.1
May	4.6	31.5	108.4	36.5	229.2	7.3	21.1	120.9	559.6
June	2.1	3.5	36.0	69.9	31.4	8.0	48.3	35.9	235.1
July	8.0	8.5	45.9	203.3	128.4	5.3	64.5	62.2	526.2
August	7.5	14.0	138.9	208.3	81.9	3.1	306.8	55.7	816.3
September	3.2	23.1	30.2	50.1	47.0	6.8	10.6	84.2	255.1
October	4.6	18.9	41.7	48.4	68.7	7.1	13.2	36.0	238.6
November	31.3	11.3	25.5	15.7	12.7	7.5	21.8	35.9	161.8
December	7.7	6.9	2.5	3.9	29.5	1.5	15.5	13.0	80.5
1975 -									
January (d)	2.2	4.0	6.2	7.1	2.9	4.7	1.6	8.2	36.9
February (d)	5.0	5.2	26.3	24.0	23.9	2.3	2.2	27.8	116.7
March (d)	8.1	1.3	40.0	22.3	50.4	2.0	7.8	37.2	169.1

(a) Australian Standard Industrial Classification - see paragraph 2, page 1. (b) Refers to all disputes operative in the period - see paragraph 4, page 1. (c) Includes ASIC sub-divisions 29, 31, 32, 33. (d) Subject to revision.

**TABLE 3. - INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : STATES  
WORKING DAYS LOST ('000) (a)**

<i>Period</i>	<i>N.S.W.</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>S.A.</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>Aust. (b)</i>
1969	743.8	717.2	238.6	129.0	101.4	9.9	1,958.0
1970	1,393.6	510.8	179.2	93.1	141.1	32.2	2,393.7
1971	1,887.5	689.6	271.4	111.2	69.4	20.6	3,068.6
1972	866.8	638.4	292.2	60.9	94.6	19.2	2,010.3
1973	1,098.1	780.5	320.2	130.6	117.3	140.1	2,634.7
1974	2,665.0	2,386.6	529.5	316.5	256.9	88.5	6,292.5
1973 -							
January	32.8	11.2	4.1	2.6	7.9	19.1	82.1
February	87.0	86.6	16.7	14.7	7.7	33.5	248.4
March	110.0	47.4	18.8	15.2	10.2	28.5	231.7
April	42.9	92.8	18.2	5.7	11.7	9.5	192.0
May	125.6	94.2	56.2	7.9	7.2	12.4	304.3
June	158.5	91.1	75.6	3.0	8.7	18.8	363.7
July	90.8	102.0	17.1	4.2	9.2	1.6	225.0
August	113.0	33.7	42.8	7.1	15.7	2.5	218.6
September	91.2	83.2	25.1	6.8	4.3	0.2	215.9
October	110.3	87.3	14.9	15.3	12.9	1.8	245.2
November	125.2	44.6	27.4	23.3	21.0	8.5	257.9
December	10.8	6.5	3.4	24.7	0.8	3.6	49.8
1974 -							
January	30.9	7.5	6.4	1.3	5.9	0.2	53.6
February	253.4	125.7	13.2	16.1	5.0	1.1	418.1
March	1,063.1	728.0	45.8	99.1	8.6	54.1	2,011.3
April	351.4	454.8	67.2	37.2	16.8	5.2	936.1
May	252.0	189.1	44.3	52.2	11.4	4.4	559.6
June	108.7	94.4	7.3	7.4	12.1	3.0	235.1
July	117.3	214.7	136.2	37.8	11.8	4.6	526.2
August	215.0	400.2	127.7	34.6	28.9	1.5	816.3
September	116.7	73.9	25.2	18.4	17.7	1.4	255.1
October	46.3	49.2	19.7	6.3	105.5	11.3	238.6
November	69.0	31.5	27.2	5.2	25.3	1.4	161.8
December	41.3	17.6	9.4	1.7	7.9	0.1	80.5
1975 -							
January (c)	15.1	7.5	7.1	3.1	4.0	0.1	36.9
February (c)	54.5	15.8	32.6	4.3	6.0	0.4	116.7
March (c)	119.6	18.9	24.0	2.6	1.6	0.5	169.1

(a) Refers to all disputes operative in the period - see paragraph 4, page 1. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. (c) Subject to revision.

**J. P. O'NEILL**  
Commonwealth Statistician

Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Canberra. A.C.T. 2600

NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning Mr G. Laurie on 63 9111 extension 2055 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.